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BOROUGH OF  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
in the  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX

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HEALTH  
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THE ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H  
and the  
BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1952

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## PREFACE

Telephone Number:  
Saffron Walden 2194

Public Health Department,  
69 High Street,  
Saffron Walden.

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors of the Borough of  
Saffron Walden.

Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952. The vital statistics for the Borough continue to be broadly satisfactory, although there were only 80 live births in the Borough in 1952 (compared with 105 in 1951) and deaths rose to 97 (compared with 92 in 1951). Only one infant under one year died in 1952, as in 1951 - the higher Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of all infants per 1,000 live births) being merely due to the fact that there were fewer births during the year. There were no maternal deaths in 1952. The character of Infectious Diseases in the Borough continued to be mild and for the third year in succession no case of diphtheria occurred. It is hoped that this continued freedom from diphtheria will not give young parents a false sense of security. It is not sufficiently realized that it is only by maintaining a high percentage of immunized children in the population that diphtheria epidemics can be kept at bay.

An alarming feature is the decline in vaccinations since 1948. Many parents in the Borough never think of having their children vaccinated. Yet at any time a case of smallpox might enter the county from abroad, either by sea or air travel.

No outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during the year, in spite of the fact that several of our residents, who had become infected by food poisoning organisms (*Salmonella Typhi-Murium*) in a hospital in a neighbouring town, had to be sent to their homes in the Borough while still excreting the germs. The fact that no other members of these patients' households became infected reflects great credit on the Borough Sanitary Inspector who visited the households and followed up all cases with the greatest care until all danger was past. The patients themselves must also be congratulated on the manner in which they faithfully carried out instructions in order to avoid infecting others.





One case of poliomyelitis occurred in October. The patient was removed to hospital and all available contacts kept under observation and provided with detailed information so that they might minimize the risk of danger to their own health or that of other people. Members of the patient's household kept as much as possible to their own house and garden, and the degree of co-operation received everywhere was very high. The patient had been away from home twice a little time before the disease developed and all indications seemed to point to the probability of his having acquired the disease on one of these visits.

Less cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year - three in 1952, compared with seven in 1951 - and improved methods of treatment are tending to keep the disease in check. All tubercular patients and all contacts are given the most assiduous attention and care at the Chest Clinic at Saffron Walden General Hospital and home visits are paid by the Health Visitors. During the year the Isolation Hospital in the Borough was converted into a hospital for tubercular patients (pulmonary cases) and this should prove very helpful. All tubercular patients found to be living under poor housing conditions are notified to the Borough Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer. Open Air Shelters are provided on loan by Essex County Council if these are recommended by the Chest Physician and if there are suitable sites in the gardens. The Cambridge Miniature Mass Radiography Unit (East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) visited the Borough in December. In spite of the really dreadful weather the attendance was moderately good. The Director hopes, however, to make another visit at a more favourable time. The active case rate per 1,000 persons examined was 2.1, compared with the average figure of 2.6 per 1,000 usually detected by this Unit. In a healthy area like Saffron Walden this figure should be lower. It is hoped that better housing, combined with more extensive health education, (so that people will avail themselves earlier of the facilities offered by the Chest Clinic) will gradually reduce the incidence of this disease.

Care of Old People living alone. The problem of the care of these old people will continue to grow as the proportion of old people in the population continues to rise. Very few women in the Borough have, so far, enrolled as Home Helps and, as yet the supply of Essex County Council Health Visitors is not sufficient for much time to be allocated for visiting the aged. A number of voluntary bodies are doing all they can to help in individual cases but this will not continue to meet the problem. Under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951, it is the responsibility of the Local Authority, (i.e. of the Borough Council) to take appropriate action in the case of persons "who are suffering from grave chronic



disease or, being aged and infirm, or physically handicapped, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention." Although one hesitates to recommend that old people, (unless gravely ill) should be removed from their own homes, if this can be avoided, it will more and more often become the only solution if more organised help cannot be arranged for them in their own homes.

I wish to thank the members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement, and the Borough Officials for their co-operation during the year. My thanks are especially due to the Borough Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer for his ready help and co-operation, and to my secretary, Mrs. Ledgerton, for her unfailing and cheerful assistance in all difficulties and emergencies.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

I.M.CONWAY HASTILOW.

Medical Officer of Health.

June 1953





BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

MAYOR: Councillor P.L.ALLEN  
DEPUTY MAYOR: Councillor F.W.GODDARD.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
(as on 31st December 1952 )

CHAIRMAN: Councillor F.W.Goddard.  
Deputy Chairman: Councillor J.W.Barr.  
The Mayor: Ex Officio.

Alderman G.O.Bradley.

Alderman E.Rooke

Councillor G.T.Barnard.

Councillor F.C.Start.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

Irene M.Conway Hastilow, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., I.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.San.I.

Borough Sanitary Inspector & Housing Officer:

A.E.Greensmith, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Secretary:

Mrs.M.Ledgerton.

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Public Health Department,  
69 High Street,  
Saffron Walden,  
Essex.



SECTION A - Statistics and social conditions  
of the Borough.

Area: 7,502

Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident  
population 1952): 7,165.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to  
Rate Books, 2,300.

Rateable value: £46,655.

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £179.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year (corrections  
being made for inward and outward transfers):

	Total	Male	Female	
LIVE BIRTHS: Total	80	41	39	) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 11.37
Legitimate:	78	40	38	
Illegitimate:	2	1	1	
STILL BIRTHS: Total	2	0	2	)
Legitimate:	2	0	2	
Illegitimate:	0	0	0	
DEATHS	97	55	42	) Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 13.11

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1952.

Cause of Death	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective & parasitic diseases	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	0
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6	6



	Male	Female
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
Diabetes	0	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	6
Coronary disease, angina	10	3
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0
Other heart disease	4	13
Other circulatory disease	6	2
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	4	0
Bronchitis	3	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
Ulcer of stomach & Duodenum	2	0
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	1
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	3	2
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0
All other accidents	2	0
Suicide	0	0
Homicide and Operations of War	0	0

DEATHS from Puerperal causes:-

From puerperal sepsis:	0	
" other puerperal causes:	0	Total 0

Deaths of infants under one year of age	(Legitimate 1)	Total 1
	(Illegitimate 0)	

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	(Legitimate 1)	Total 1
	(Illegitimate 0)	

All infants per 1,000 live births : 12.50

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
" " Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year





PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	12
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	17
Measles	...	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1

Diphtheria

For the third year running no cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough.

Poliomyelitis

The one case of poliomyelitis was of only moderate severity. The patient (an adult) appeared to have contracted the disease outside the Borough.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications: Three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and one case moved into the Borough.

Deaths: One death from pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in 1952.

The Borough was visited by the Cambridge Mass Radiography Unit (East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) in December 1952.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year, but several patients recovering from Salmonella Typhi-Murium infections (contracted outside the Borough) returned to the Borough while still excreting this organism. A careful watch was kept on each case and no contacts appeared to have contracted the infection.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases - 38 cases of Chicken-pox, 1 case of Mumps and 19 cases of German Measles were notified by the schools in 1952.



SECTION B - General provisions of Health Services  
for the Borough

Laboratory Service - Bacteriological Service. The district is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities - A day and night ambulance service is provided by the Essex County Council. The ambulance station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons requiring an ambulance are advised to dial '999' and ask for an ambulance. Where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person such as a duly authorised officer in the Mental Health Service.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery (provided by the Essex County Council) - These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the Borough.

Domiciliary Visiting by Health Visitors (provided by Essex County Council) - There is one Health Visitor for Saffron Walden Borough.

Domestic Help Service - Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Division, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Care of Expectant Mothers (provided by Essex County Council) - An Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday in the month at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden.

Care of Children up to school age (provided by Essex County Council) - Child Welfare sessions are held at Saffron Walden every Friday afternoon. Children are immunised against diphtheria at all clinics. Vaccinations are not carried out at the clinics as a routine, but are performed by the family doctor.

Care of School Children (provided by Essex County Council) - Regular School Medical Inspections are carried out at all schools. Children are immunised against diphtheria with the consent of their parents.

Hospitals - The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the Saffron Walden population are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Saffron Walden





Isolation Hospital was converted into a hospital for tubercular patients during the year. Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are now admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospitals at Cambridge, Newmarket and Bishop's Stortford.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of the Borough. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital and one at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

National Assistance Act. 1948. Section 47. It was not necessary to take Statutory Action under this Section during 1952.

### SECTION C - Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer & Surveyor Mr. T. W. Cloughton, M.I.M.E., M.R.S.I.,) for the following report:-

#### DRAINAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Apart from general repairs and maintenance, no works of major importance have been carried out. It is gratifying to note that the standard of effluent achieved over recent years is being maintained, and that the existing systems are proving of sufficient capacity to deal with increased flows due to new and improved housing developments.

#### SWIMMING BATH

The operation of the purification plant continued satisfactorily, with the result that the high standard of purity of the water in the pool was maintained.

- 12 -

- 13 -

- 14 -

- 15 -

## WATER SUPPLY

The supply continued to be quite satisfactory. The neighbourhood of "St. Ayletts" and "Butlers" is now served by a piped supply from the Saffron Walden Rural District Council by agreement with Saffron Walden Rural District Council, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government under Section 113 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The Borough Council took over the control and maintenance of Little Walden Pumping Station, mains and high level water tank in December 1952 and will continue to supply the properties of "Gt. Bowsers", "Lt. Bowsers", and "Littleys" by agreement with the Saffron Walden Rural District Council under Section 113 of the Public Health Act 1936.

Population of Statutory Area	.....	7165
" supplied into houses	.....	6785
" supplied by standpipes	.....	360
" without piped supply	.....	20

Chemical analyses of samples were also reported as satisfactory, the following is a typical report:

### CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance	... ..	Bright with very few mineral particles.	
Turbidity	... ..	Less than 3.	
Colour	... ..	Nil	Odour
pH	7.0		Nil
Electric Conductivity	570		Free Carbon Dioxide
Chlorine present as			39
Chlorides	18		Total Solids
Hardness: Total	180		380
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.6		Alkalinity
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	000		270
Albuminoid Nitrogen	000		0
Metals	Absent		Nitrite Nitrogen
			Absent
			Oxygen Absorbed
			0.05
			Residual Chlorine
			Absent

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The hardness of the water is moderate and it is free from any excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results are indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Dated. 2nd October 1952

Signed .....



### BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of samples submitted	...	...	...	...	18
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	16
Moderately satisfactory	...	...	...	...	2

The following is a typical report:

Nature of sample:

1. Tap, standpipe - Waterworks

2. Tap over sink - Municipal Offices.

Date and hour of collection ..... 23.9 52

Date and hour of arrival ..... 23.9 52

Plate Count, Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically (Above two samples) per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C  
= 0 per 100ml.

Probable number of faecal coli = 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks: These water samples are satisfactory.

Date of report: 25. 9. 52

Signed .....





R E P O R T  
- of the -  
BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR

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For the Year 1932

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# REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Saffron Walden Borough Council.

I have the honour to submit this Annual Report for the year 1952, the first complete year of my appointment with the Council.

The endemic problems of Housing remain a cause for concern, although it is pleasing to note that sixty-nine families were re-housed or re-accommodated by the Council during the year. There is, however, an urgent need for consideration to be given to the ever increasing problem of sub-standard and unfit houses. The policy of uniting rehousing with action under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts to secure improvements to or demolition of unfit houses, has much to commend it. The question of economics, of course, figures largely in the determination of the extent of statutory or other action which can be taken.

It had been hoped, during the year, to effect a general survey of all or many of the food premises within the district, but, unfortunately only a small number of inspections were possible. It was revealed, however, that much can and should be done to bring about an enhanced standard of food hygiene. The co-operation and interest of members of the public can do much to assist in this work of securing, at all times, a clean and wholesome supply of food.

Regular sampling of milk, ice-cream and water supplies was commenced during the year, and on the whole a good standard was maintained. Traders concerned have been helpful in taking steps to achieve the desired standards.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Members and Officers of the Council for their generous assistance, support and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

A.E. GREENSMITH.  
Borough Sanitary Inspector.





## WATER SUPPLY.

The public supply was sampled regularly during the year. Samples submitted for bacteriological examination were reported on as follows:

Number of samples submitted ...	...	...	18
Satisfactory ...	...	...	16
Moderately satisfactory .....	...	...	2

Chemical analyses of samples were also reported as satisfactory.

The term "moderately satisfactory" may need amplification, by strict laboratory standards, the two samples above, were not of the very high standard desired of a public supply; but, this does not imply that the water was unfit or that consumption entailed any risk to health. On no occasion has disease causing organisms been isolated from the water and judged by that standard all samples were satisfactory.

It may do well to reflect that not many years ago, very few of the population were assured always of a "safe" and clean water supply, and, that typhoid and other water-borne diseases were quite prevalent.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY.

Two premises were registered by the Council as Dairies. One dairy has been generally improved, and up-to-date bottle washing machines and other plant installed. The installation of pasteurising plant and equipment was nearing completion at the end of the year. Two producer retailers also sell milk in the district, their premises being registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The bulk of the milk consumed in the Borough is produced from local Tuberculin Tested herds. During the year thirty-six samples of milk were taken, of these ten were found not to be of the required standard but after further investigation and sampling the required standards were attained and maintained.

### ICE CREAM.

Twenty-two premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, and one manufacturer is registered. Three samples were taken during the year.

### FOOD HYGIENE.

Copies of the Byelaws relating to the Handling, Wrapping, and Delivery of Food, adopted by the Council, under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were distributed to all food premises and catering establishments within the Borough. An enclosed letter drew attention to the need for, and the desirability of the careful handling of food, and the need for the provision of suitable facilities to this end. The number of premises inspected was, unfortunately, not as high as had been hoped for, but it was shown that there is much that can and should be done to secure the provision of clean and safe food at all times. Following representations to the proprietors some improvements were carried out to the premises especially with regard to washing facilities.

### MEAT.

During the year two hundred and fifty-three visits were made to butchers' shops, slaughterhouses and other premises. All meat and meat products found on examination to be unfit for human consumption was voluntarily surrendered. Improvements to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, at Church Street have been carried out especially with regard to lighting, provision of cloakroom and washing facilities for the slaughtermen, drainage accommodation, and disposal of inedible offals. It is hoped in the near future that more satisfactory supplies of hot and cold water will be available. The inspection of meat at the slaughterhouse under cramped conditions proves to be onerous, but has been facilitated to some extent by the improvements.



Details are given below of the figures for animals slaughtered and condemnation meat. It is pleasing to note that although five hundred and thirty-seven more animals were slaughtered than the previous year, the total weight of meat condemned shows a decrease of more than six tons.

#### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	1297	436	2319	792
Number inspected	1297	436	2319	792

#### All diseases except tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	13	5	13	28
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	245	2	16	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	19.89	1.60	1.25	7.50

#### Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	6	0	0	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	44	0	0	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.85	0	0	1.92

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED AND FOUND UNSUIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

##### BEEF

19 Carcasses	...	...	...	...	...	8,641 lbs.	(12,232)
Parts of carcasses	..	...	...	...	...	2,247 "	(1,812)
Offal	...	....	...	...	...	6,599 "	(12,116)

##### MUTTON

13 Carcasses	....	...	...	...	...	652 "	(1,196)
Parts of carcasses	..	...	...	...	...	34 "	(16)
Offal	...	....	...	...	...	250 "	(312)

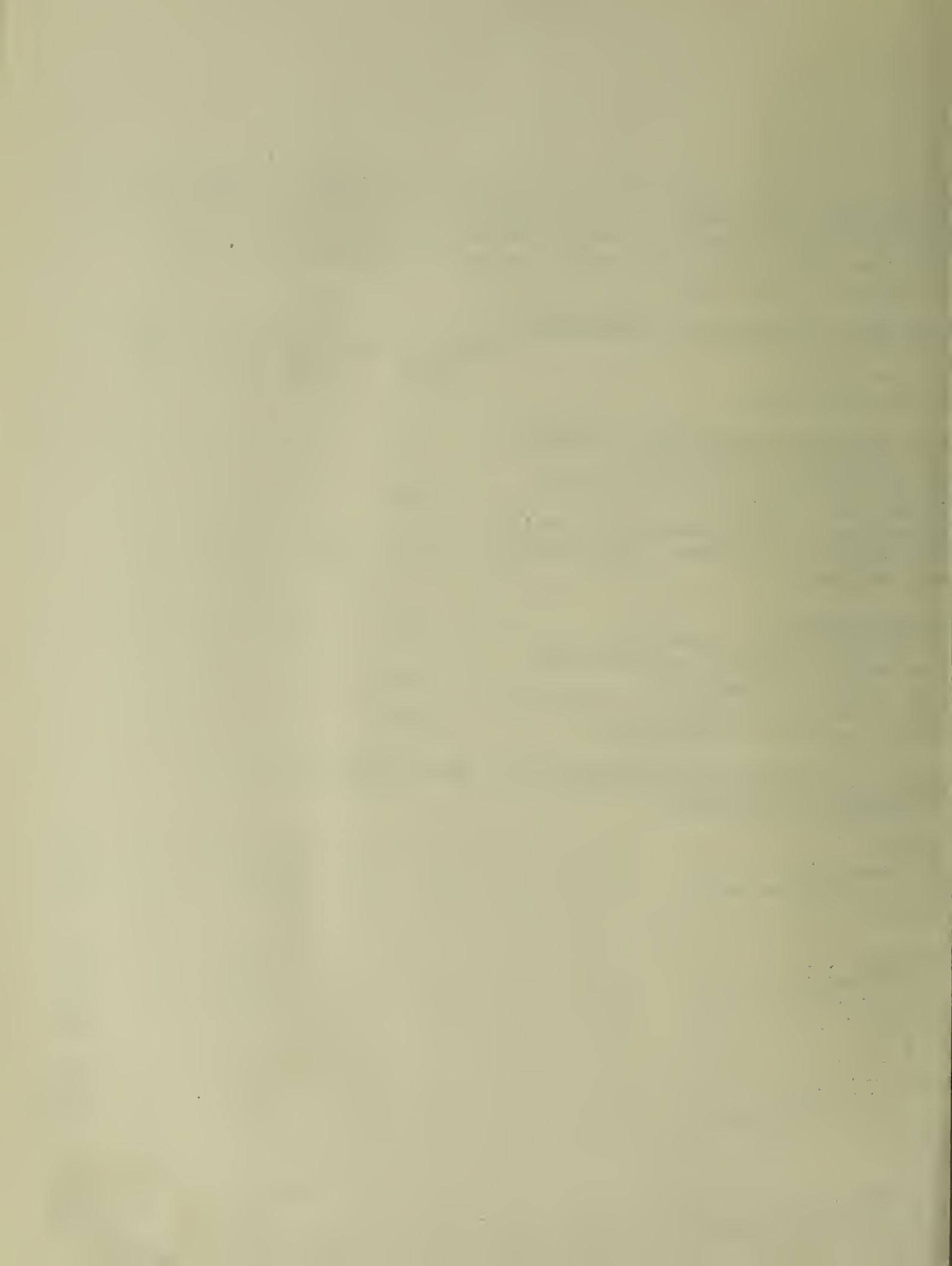
##### VEAL

3 Carcasses	....	...	...	...	...	281 "	(699)
Parts of carcasses	..	...	...	...	...	- "	(10)
Offal	...	....	...	...	...	53 "	(152)

##### PORK

34 Carcasses	...	...	...	...	...	4,613 "	(7,150)
Parts of carcasses	...	...	...	...	...	456 "	(1,214)
Offal	....	...	...	...	...	672 "	(1,247)

The figures in parenthesis are those for the previous year.





## OTHER FOODSTUFFS

Various pre-packed foods	...	...	...	659 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Bacon	...	...	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs	Chocolate ... 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs
Cheese	...	...	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Dried Yeast .. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Biscuits	...	...	20 "	Beans ... 2 cwt 48 "
Fish	...	...	428 "	Lard ... 1 "
Potatoes	...	...	56 "	Dates ... 20 "

The bulk of the condemned foodstuffs were collected and salvaged for use as animal feed.

## H O U S I N G

At the end of the year 49 houses had been completed by the Council, and 9 by other persons. During the year 69 families were re-housed or re-accommodated in Council houses or other Council managed property.

### HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

At the beginning of the year 390 applications were registered. After scrutiny it was found that a large number were out of date or obsolete. Following this a new "Points Scheme" was adopted, and a new register compiled. The applications then registered, numbered about 250. At the end of the year over 200 were registered. Investigation entailing visits to applicants homes is carried out, so as to enable the Housing Committee to consider all cases presented to them on merit. Steps are taken in conjunction with the investigations to deal with, as necessary, individual houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

### UNFIT HOUSES.

Reports were submitted to the Housing Committee in respect of dwellings, which were inspected and found not in all respects fit for human habitation. One area including 10 dwellings was declared a "Clearance Area"; and steps were taken to rehouse the families therein. 6 families had been rehoused by the Council at the end of the year. Undertakings from the respective owners in respect of 8 dwellings were accepted by the Council, with regard to the carrying out of essential repairs and improvements, before the dwellings were again let for human habitation.

### INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

a. Number of houses inspected for housing defects and accommodation under the Public Health or Housing Acts.	118
b. Number of visits for the purpose	272
c. Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..	18
d. Number of houses (exclusive of c) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35
e. Number of houses rendered fit following service of informal notices	32



### OVERCROWDING

Number of cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	3
Number of persons concerned therein	...	...	...	...	14
Number of cases of overcrowding outstanding	...	...	...	...	1

All cases of overcrowding are referred to the Housing Committee for rehousing as and when accommodation becomes available.

### COUNCIL HOUSES.

The total number of houses and bungalows constructed by the Council at the end of the year was 475, houses built pre-war number 185, and post-war 270 including 20 prefabricated bungalows. 12 other dwellings are controlled by the Council, including 8 huts.

A Tenants Handbook was published during the year and copies were distributed to all Council house tenants. The main purpose of the handbook being to make tenants more aware of their responsibilities as tenants; and at the same time showing the extent and importance of the Housing programme carried out by the Council.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

All cases of defective and obstructed drainage were dealt with informally, and in 38 cases defects and nuisances were remedied following the service of informal notices.

Following complaints of insanitary conditions due to the discharge of sewage effluent and waste water into open ditches, investigations were made and reported to the Public Health Committee. The decision of the Council to empty cesspools once a year, free of charge, will, it is hoped, help to alleviate some of the troubles. It is recommended that more frequent emptyings will go even further in abating some of the nuisances. It must be pointed out, however, that emptyings, no matter how frequent, will not be of use where cesspools are not properly constructed, and not of sufficient size.

### REFUSE COLLECTION

The Collection of refuse and salvage is controlled by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor ( Mr.T.W.Cloughton). Weekly collections are made from all premises in the district, with the exception of the more rural areas where collections are made fortnightly. Additional collections are made from business premises. Salvage continues to provide a useful source of income, although the prices paid for waste paper were not as high as had been previously experienced.





## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The prevalence of rats and mice continued to increase during the year, and the propensity of these rodents to feed on the food made available by man, as always, made their presence known more and more. The number of properties and land infested was quite high, the estimated number of mice (582) and rats (5700) destroyed gives some indication of the extent of the problem. It was again noticed that poultry keepers who leave food accessible to rats were responsible for a large number of infestations to dwelling houses. The Slade and public sewers were treated twice during the year in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Infestations were general, but only of a minor character. Treatment of the refuse dump was carried out regularly and frequently, and infestations were kept to a minimum. Statutory action was necessary under Section 4 of the Act, in only one case, to deal with a major infestation of wheat stacks and agricultural land. The work of dismantling and threshing ten stacks was carried out, in default of the occupier, by the Cambridge Agricultural Executive Committee, on behalf of the Council. The cost being recovered from the occupier. The amount of feedstuff wasted was a salutary example of how rodents damage and spoil many times the amount actually consumed by them. During the year over four hundred properties were inspected, involving over a thousand visits by the rodent operative. The use of a new product "Warfarin" has been greatly increased with results that show that a major step has been taken in the "battle" against rodents. "Warfarin" is not a poison in the accepted sense of the word, but is described as a "Blood anti-coagulant", and has none of the disadvantages of other methods of poisoning when being used in accessible places near domestic animals and poultry. The increased use of "Warfarin" has lessened to some extent the need for daily visits to infested property by the operative. In some instances only weekly visits are necessary. "Warfarin" can be dangerous to domestic animals, but large quantities would have to be ingested regularly for several days before any ill effects were evident, not necessarily fatal.





## INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

There are 49 factories with power and 4 factories without power on the Register, included with the factories with power are 4 laundries and 4 bakehouses.

### 1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health;

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices.
(1) Factories in which section 1,2,3,4,and 6 are enforceable by Local Authority.	4	3	2
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	49	9	4
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers premises)	3	-	-
TOTAL	56	12	6

### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found;

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found Remedied		Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	1	2	-	2
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp'	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent'	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences;				
a) insufficient	1	-	-	-
b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to outworkers premises)				
TOTAL	5	2	-	2



## OTHER MATTERS

Houses inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	16
Dwellinghouses and other premises inspected under the Public Health Acts	111
Dwellinghouses inspected with regard to housing accommodation and overcrowding	97
Premises inspected other than above regarding nuisances, infectious diseases etc.	25
Re-visits Public Health and Housing Acts.	328

### Other Inspections

Food premises	91
Slaughterhouses	249
Dairies	18
Bakehouses	4
Moveable Dwellings	8

### Statutory Notices

It was found necessary in only two cases to take statutory action, one in regard to rodent infestation, and the other with regard to premises being injurious to health.

### Informal Notices

Number of notices served during year	105
Number of such notices complied with	85
Number of notices outstanding	20

### General

Number of complaints received	66
Number of samples of milk taken	36
Number of samples of ice-cream taken	3
Number of samples of water taken	26
Number of samples of sewage effluent taken	2
Number of premises disinfected following infectious disease	17
Number of premises treated for insect pests	4

### Mosquitoes

Various ponds and ditches were treated during the breeding season to offset the nuisance caused by these pests. By the use of a concentrated miscible larvacide, some degree of success was attained.

### Shops Act

No action was found to be necessary.

### Smoke Abatement

There have only been a few instances of nuisance from smoke from factory chimneys, and these have been accountable mainly to the use of unsuitable fuel.

Duplicated by Miss D.Brown, 93 Thaxted Road, Saffron Walden,  
Essex.